



# WSN Network News

January 15, 2004

News on issues of common interest to Wisconsin's sporting, conservation, and environmental communities.

Click on these WSN priority issue section links or scan the Acrobat bookmarks on the left:

- [Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line](#)
- [DNR Independence and PIO Restoration](#)
- [Fair Motorboat Gas Revenue Allocation](#)
- [Farm Manure Management & Polluted Runoff Enforcement](#)
- [Forest Fragmentation](#)
- [Mercury Reduction](#)
- [Metallic Mining](#)
- [Shoreland Zoning & Water Protection](#)

## Last call for WSN conference!

Visit these WSN web resources to learn about and register for the WSN annual conference Feb. 6-7 at UW-Stevens Point:

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <a href="#">Sessions</a>             | <a href="#">Lodging Info</a>  |
| <a href="#">Registration Form</a>    | <a href="#">Tribal Awards (and how you can participate in them)</a> |
| <a href="#">On-line Registration</a> |   |



Reserve the date and find several of your group members to attend...

## WSN 2004 Annual Conference Feb. 6-7, 2004

University Center, UW-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI



### Michael Furtman keynote speaker at conference

Ducks Unlimited and Trout Unlimited have each given Michael Furtman their top awards for outdoor writing. Michael sees the value in sporting, conservation, and environmental groups working together for their increased effectiveness. His nationwide reporting gives him a unique perspective on the current state of conservation and the environment. Hear Michael at both our Friday forum and the Saturday conference.

### Tribal thank-you

Join a ceremony with Gov. Doyle honoring the Mole Lake Chippewa and the Forest County Potawatomi for their heroic purchase of the Crandon Mine.



### Presidential candidate visits?

We have invited all the major party presidential candidates to speak. Who might drop by just days before the WI primary?



### Friday forum looks at environmental rollbacks

Our Friday night forum addresses the growing trend toward environmental and conservation rollbacks and retrenchments in conservation and the environment at the state and federal levels. Panelists include *George Meyer* of the WI Wildlife Federation, *Steve Hiniker* of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, *Melissa Scanlan* of Midwest Environmental Advocates, and writer *Michael Furtman*.

Just added to forum line-up: WI Sec. of State *Doug La Follette*.

## A-W easement tactics, offers explained

In the situation with Arrowhead-Weston, the offers for initial easement purchase are usually low-balled during the first discussions. One of the Minnesota area landowners on the path of this transmission line settled early, and was offered 1/3 of what the other area landowners had stated the value should be. While the utility will tell you that you had better take the first offer, it has been our understanding through discussion with appraisers this is not necessarily the case. In Wisconsin, our Dept. of Commerce has an excellent publication on what condemnation rights are for a transmission line easement. You may also want to check with the Minnesota Public Utility Commission for what information they offer. However, in Wisconsin the best and most thorough information was found with the DOC. Before signing anything, check out all of your legal options. You will most likely be surprised to find that there are more than the utility has told you about. Hope this is helpful.

SOURCE: Linda Ceylor, SOUL, [hillsidedairyfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:hillsidedairyfarm@yahoo.com).

## DNR's feedback phone system debuts

The WDNR has established a “customer feedback line” that the public can now use to report problems with regulations, environmental permits, or general services as well as positive interactions with DNR staff that occur after Jan. 1, 2004. The telephone feedback line went active Jan. 5 and can be reached at (608) 266-0158 during regular business hours of 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. The line will be answered by a person at the DNR Central Office in Madison unless it is busy, in which case the caller will have an opportunity to leave a message for a return call. An Internet-based system is also in the works.

“Our goal is to collect feedback, both positive and negative, on the current work we do from those we regulate as well as from the general public for whom we provide recreational opportunities,” said DNR Secretary Scott Hassett. “We will follow up on all calls. When we get positive reports, we will reinforce those actions. When DNR is in error, we will work to fix it. Getting concrete information through the feedback line will help us provide the best service possible.”

SOURCE: WDNR.



## Council on Recycling seeking public input

As you know, the Council on Recycling was established by the State Legislature to provide recommendations to state and local government and the business community on methods to both improve the implementation of the existing recycling law, and for waste reduction and recycling measures beyond the existing law. The Council consists of seven people appointed by the Governor and has just recently selected a short list of priorities, consisting of:

- computers and other electronics
- mercury-containing products
- paper, including mixed paper construction and
- demolition debris.

The Council welcomes your comments and participation. To receive e-mail or paper copies of the meeting notices, agendas and minutes, please contact Dan Fields of DNR at [Dan.Fields@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Dan.Fields@dnr.state.wi.us). In addition, the Council will have

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### Gov. Doyle to present thank-you awards to tribes Feb. 6

A highlight of the Wisconsin Stewardship Network's annual conference will be a ceremony in which Governor Jim Doyle presents two specially commissioned statues to the Wisconsin Indian tribes that purchased — and then immediately abandoned — the controversial Crandon Mine last November. Doyle will present the awards Friday night at the University Center at UW-Stevens Point on behalf of the State of Wisconsin and organizations, businesses, and individuals across the state. Receiving the awards will be Sandra Rachal, chair of the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa, and Gus Frank, chair of the Forest County Potawatomi.

The statue awards are being created by Minnesota Native American artist **Jeff Savage**. The statues will have added significance in that they will incorporate pieces of the original core samples drilled over 25 years ago by the proposed mine's first owner, EXXON. Those core samples verified that the Crandon site was worth developing, but now they will be used in objects symbolizing the mine's final chapter.

#### Groups, individuals can show appreciation to tribes through statue contribution

The WSN is offering individuals and businesses the opportunity to join in this special thank-you to the tribes. Those who contribute toward the purchase of the statues will have their names engraved in three places — on the bases of both statues and on a tile in the Mole Lake tribe's new administration building now under construction. Businesses and individuals wishing to have their names on the statues to show their appreciation to the tribes should send their contribution to the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, Inc., Attn: tribal awards, 122 State St. Ste. 510, Madison, WI 53703. Call (608) 268-1218 for further details. Contributions are tax deductible and will be accepted through Feb. 28.

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### Wolf Watershed Educational Project meeting Jan. 10

Wolf Watershed Educational Project will meet Sat., Jan. 10, inside the former Crandon mine site at Mole Lake. The meeting will be from 10-3 at the Nii Win House. From Highway 55, take Sand Lake Road one block to the corner, then follow it as it turns left toward Spirit Hill (now owned by Mole Lake!). The Nii Win House will be about one mile, on the right after a hill.

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**Assembly passes revised Job Creation Act; Senate to act Jan 20**

The Wisconsin Assembly passed second revision to the original Job Creation Act Tuesday night, Jan. 13. The vote is shown in the table to the right. The Senate is expected to take up the measure Jan. 20.

**Groups disagree with Doyle: latest jobs bill still lowers standards**

Leaders of about 20 conservation, environmental, and good government groups held a press conference Wednesday, Jan. 15, in the State Capitol rotunda to point out that the latest version of the Job Creation Act will lower numerous air and water standards despite claims to the contrary by the bill’s proponents and Governor Doyle. The groups called on the Governor to veto the bill, and for the first time, the possibility of legal challenges were discussed.

“A narrow minority has used the current economic downturn to gut key environmental protections,” said Jennifer Giegerich, WISPIRG State Director. “But the real travesty of the situation is that our Legislative Leadership and Governor Doyle went along with it.” The compromise reached between Gov. Doyle and the Legislature undermines existing environmental laws. Several key examples of lowered water protections include:

- Limiting the protections of public rights in navigable waters except for “areas of special natural resource interests”, which is currently defined under state law to include 10% of Wisconsin’s lakes and streams.
- Requiring that DNR must decide within 30 days whether or not an applicant will need to obtain an individual permit or is exempted from needing one for activities in public waters. If the DNR cannot reach a decision in that timeframe, the applicant is automatically exempted from needing a permit. However, given the large amount of responsibility already placed on DNR permit staff, and continuous efforts to reduce their resources, there is significant likelihood that projects that adversely impact waterways will be allowed to happen by default.
- Taking away the public’s opportunity to have notice of and comment on projects that would be exempted or only needing general permits under Chapter 30, which greatly undermines the public trust doctrine under the Wisconsin Constitution.

AYES - 80			NAYS - 14			NOT VOTING - 2			PAIRED - 2		
Δ	N	NY	NAME	Δ	N	NY	NAME	Δ	N	NY	NAME
Y			AINSWORTH R	Y			KREUSER D	Y			SHERMAN D
Y			ALBERS R		N		KRUG D	Y			SHILLING D
Y			BIES R	Y			KRUSICK D		N		SINICKI D
	N		BLACK D	Y			LADWIG R	Y			STASKUNAS D
		N	BOYLE D	Y			LASEE R	Y			STEINBRINK D
Y			COLON D		N		LEHMAN, J. D	Y			STONE R
	N		CULLEN D	Y			LEHMAN, M. R	Y			SUDER R
Y			FITZGERALD R	Y			LEMAHIEU R	Y			TAYLOR D
Y			FOTI R	Y			LOEFFELHOLZ R	Y			TOWNS R
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Y			FRISKE R	Y			MCCORMICK R		N		TRAVIS D
Y			GIELOW R	Y			MEYER R	Y			TURNER D
Y			GOTTLIEB R		N		MILLER D	Y			UNDERHEIM R
Y			GRONEMUS D		N		MOLEPSKE D	Y			VAN AKKEREN D
Y			GROTHMAN R	Y			MONTGOMERY R	Y			VAN ROY R
Y			GUNDERSON R	Y			MORRIS D	Y			VRAKAS R
	x		GUNDRUM R	Y			MUSSER R	Y			VRUWINK D
Y			HAHN R	Y			NASS R	Y			VUKMIR R
Y			HEBL D	Y			NISCHKE R	Y			WARD R
Y			HINES R	Y			OLSEN R	Y			WASSERMAN D
Y			HONADEL R	Y			OTT R	Y			WEBER R
Y			HUBER D	Y			OWENS R	Y			WIECKERT R
Y			HUBLER D	Y			PETROWSKI R		N		WILLIAMS, A. D
Y			HUEBSCH R	Y			PETTIS R	Y			WILLIAMS, M. R
Y			HUNDERTMARK R		N		PLOUFF D	Y			WOOD, J. R
Y			JENSEN R		N		POCAN D	Y			WOOD, W. D
Y			JESKEWITZ R	Y			POPE-ROBERTS D	Y			YOUNG D
Y			JOHNSRUD R	Y			POWERS R	Y			ZEPNICK D
Y			KAUFERT R	Y			RHOADES R	Y			ZIEGELBAUER D
Y			KERKMAN R		N		RICHARDS D	Y			SPEAKER R
Y			KESTELL R		N		SCHNEIDER D				
Y			KRAWCZYK R	Y			SCHOOFF D				
Y			KREIBICH R	Y			SERATTI R				

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“The Democratic process needs to be more open to allow citizens the opportunity to get information in a timely manner so that they can be informed about the content of legislation and give their decision-makers input,” said LuAnn Bird, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin. The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin was unable to get and distribute the legislation to their Board members in time to be able to register their position on the bill.”

If legislators and the Governor really wanted to see regulatory changes that would streamline permitting processes while retaining full public health and natural resource protections, they should:

- Modernize the state’s permit and compliance systems so that they are all online. This makes submittals easier for permittees, but also makes it possible for any agency person to have immediate access so time is not lost transferring paper files.
- Adopt Assembly Bill 514 that lays out clear and consistent permitting guidelines for activities in our waters. The process carefully reviewed the flaws of current policy, included broad-based and public review of the policy options, and received bipartisan support of those new options.
- Restore personnel funding for those who review permits at the DNR. Since 1997 the division of water at the DNR has lost 50% of its funding requiring a reduction in staff. Less staff means it takes longer to review and process permits.

View other opinions on this bill at <http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Jan04/Jan15/0115wispirgjobs.PDF>.

SOURCE: Jennifer Giegerich, Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group, (608)-251-1918.

## Groups to protest Doyle’s job act stance at Green Bay event

Several groups are holding a PROTEST RALLY in Green Bay, outside the entrance, right before the Governor’s Town Hall meeting (which runs from 1-2 p.m.). Please dress for the weather and bring signs!

**Friday, January 16  
12:40 p.m.  
Northeast Wis. Technical College  
Center for Business and Industry  
2740 West Mason St., Room C227**

Please be present by 12:40 p.m. for the news conference portion of our rally. If your organization would like to speak, please come prepared with a very brief statement. If your organization would like to sign on to a basic written statement of opposition to the JCA, please respond to this e-mail with your group’s OK and name. We’ll also make a separate generic fact sheet to outline the worst aspects of the JCA for the media.

Please help spread the word. This event belongs to every concerned citizen or group. It will be difficult to locate participants free on a weekday afternoon but it is essential that environmentalists and conservationists respond strongly to this attack. Please call your retired, student or self-employed members in the Green Bay area and urge them to attend.

SOURCE: Rebecca Katers, Clean Water Action Council of N.E. Wisconsin, 1270 Main Street, Suite 120 Green Bay, WI 54302 (920) 437-7304, [cwac@execpc.com](mailto:cwac@execpc.com).





## ‘Green Bag Lunches’ planned by Friends of Milwaukee’s Rivers

Friends of Milwaukee’s Rivers is planning a series of monthly “Green Bag” lunches at the Milwaukee Environmental Consortium starting in February. The lunches will be co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Stewardship Network (WSN). It is our hope that these lunches will increase networking between environmental organizations and provide some educational opportunities for those groups. Current plans are to have the lunch the third Thursday of every month. If anyone feels that there is a large conflict with this routine, please let us know. We want this opportunity to be available to as many people as possible. The “Green Bag” lunches will be free (bring your own lunch) and targeted to environmental professional and volunteer leaders in the Milwaukee area. We are in the early planning stages and would like some feed back from you about topics to cover and issues of concern. We have listed sample topic ideas below. Please let us know which of these topics might be of interest to you, what additional items you would like to see included, and any other relevant reactions you might have. Please also send us your thoughts about additional Milwaukee area colleagues who should be included on the distribution list for notification of upcoming events. If you know of a particular person we should contact to present a subject, please let us know.

- Ideas for sessions include:
- Water Pollution (e.g. mercury, non-point runoff, PCBs).
- Environmental health (e.g. lead paint, asthma).
- Environmental regulations (e.g. Clean Air Act, DNR regulatory changes).
- Transportation (e.g. Freeway expansion, bus system, highway funding).
- Environmental justice issues Specific local issues.
- Mayoral candidates Q&A Park East plans Beach closings Strategy and technique issues:
- How to move a bill through the state legislature Grassroots advocacy What are the limits to lobbying?

How to recruit new members through direct mail How to create effective newsletters. How to work with the media. We appreciate your participation and look forward to getting this event off the ground!

SOURCE: Robyn Calvey, Membership Coordinator and WSN Southeast WI Regional Coordinator, Friends of Milwaukee’s Rivers, 1845 N. Farwell Ave. Suite 100 Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 287-0207

[Robyn\\_Calvey@mkeriverkeeper.org](mailto:Robyn_Calvey@mkeriverkeeper.org).

## Bills to roll back billboard conformity standards in works

Visual pollution in our most scenic areas would continue unabated under Assembly Bill 496 and Senate Bill 239. These bills will come up for a vote in the State Assembly and Senate during the floor period of January 20 to February 5. Now is the time we need you to write, call or e-mail your assemblyman and senator to express your opposition to these bills.

The outdoor advertising industry is promoting these bills that would allow “repair and maintenance” of non-conforming billboards. Non-conforming billboards could become like new in just over 3 years and stay in place practically forever. Non-conforming billboards are billboards existing on farmland and rural land — our most scenic areas — billboards that would be illegal under

current state law. The current law was enacted in March, 1972, in accordance with the federal Highway Beautification Act. The law says non-conforming signs “shall be removed.” But most of the non-conforming billboards were never taken down and now the outdoor advertising industry wants the right to re-build these billboards, effectively evading the intent of current law.

SOURCE: Chuck Mitchell, [chuck@scenicwisconsin.org](mailto:chuck@scenicwisconsin.org).

## Earth stewardship conference Feb. 8-9 in Oshkosh

The Wisconsin Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign (WICEC) will be hosting a statewide public conference on global warming and related issues at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh on Sunday and Monday, February 8 and 9, 2004. Keynote speakers Rabbi Arthur Waskow, founder and director of the Shalom Center, Philadelphia, PA, and Jane Elder, Executive Director of the national Biodiversity Project, Madison, WI, will address the conference theme: “At the Tipping Point: From Global Warming to Global Sustainability.” For more information visit [www.wicec.org](http://www.wicec.org).

SOURCE: Rev. Dave Steffenson, (920) 623-4360.

## Nominations sought for environmental achievement award

Municipalities and businesses that demonstrate dedication and commitment to protecting the environment could be rewarded for their efforts with the Department of Natural Resource’s most prestigious award, the John E. Brogan Environmental Achievement Award. The DNR is accepting nominations for the award until Feb. 24, 2004. For more information visit <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cea/awards/brogan/index.htm>.

SOURCE: Mary Brown, WDNR (608) 261-7599.

## Community design artist to visit Madison area

Internationally recognized artist and community development specialist Milenko Matanovic will give a free public presentation describing his experiences in creating special places in communities as far away as Russia and China. A former resident of Madison, Milenko moved to Seattle, WA about 25 years ago and founded the Pomegranate Center, a non-profit community design and development organization. The Pomegranate Center helps communities throughout the world utilize their unique gifts to become more vibrant and humane places. Community members will get an opportunity to listen to Milenko share his experiences creating communities in which art, public participation, environmental sustainability and community betterment converge on Thursday, January 22nd at 7:00 pm in Room 2120 of Grainger Hall at 975 University Avenue. Registration is not required.

SOURCE: Sustain Dane, (608) 819.0689 [Bryant@SustainDane.org](mailto:Bryant@SustainDane.org).

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## Major donor workshop Jan. 29-30 in Madison

A program entitled “Building Your Major Donor Program for Financial Stability and Effective Advocacy” with presenters Kim Gilliam and Jo Moore will be held January 29-30, at the Hilton Hotel, 9 E. Wilson St., Madison. The workshop is sponsored by Clean Wisconsin with generous support from the Beldon Fund. Space is limited. Please register by January 19. For more information, including lodging options, contact Mark Redsten at (608) 251-7020.

SOURCE: Mark Redsten, Development Director, Clean Wisconsin (Formerly Wisconsin’s Environmental Decade), 122 State Street, Suite 200 Madison, WI 53703-2500 (608) 251-7020 [www.cleanwisconsin.org](http://www.cleanwisconsin.org).

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## WLCV interim legislative scorecard to be released Jan. 20

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters will be releasing their Interim Scorecard 2003 on January 20. Please consider attending the press conference at the Capitol at 9 a.m. that morning...just minutes before the legislators file back into their chambers to officially begin the second half of the session. The Interim Scorecard shows how our legislators performed on the most important conservation votes from the first half of the legislative session. The release of this document is a great opportunity for us (the conservation community) to congratulate those legislators doing well. And for those not doing so well (and there are plenty), it’s a chance to remind them that our organizations and our thousands of members expect better!

We encourage you to use the results of the Scorecard in your lobbying visits, press work, and communications with members. (Reminder: 501(c)(3) orgs may not directly duplicate the scores in public communications, but you may summarize the results and refer to the document, i.e., only blank percent of legislators are fighting for your natural resource values.... You can pick up your copy of the Interim Scorecard at the press conference or view it on-line at [www.conservationvoters.org](http://www.conservationvoters.org) on Jan 20.

SOURCE: Anne Sayers, Director of Communications, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters and WLCV-Institute, (608) 850.4585.

## ‘Surviving Our Electrically Polluted Environment’ event Jan. 23

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau District 1 Young Farmers present “Surviving in Our Electrically Polluted Environment” January 23 at 10 a.m. at the Jefferson County Extension Building, 864 Collins Rd., Jefferson. Cleaning up electrical pollution is critically important to the future health and economic well-being of families throughout the country, as well as the future of dairy farming.

The featured speaker will Dave Stetzer, who worked with industry for years as an industrial power quality specialist, designing and installing systems to protect their equipment from ‘dirty’ power. For over five years, he has used the same equipment to document the power quality problems in homes, schools, office buildings, and on dairy farms, working with utilities to solve the problems and solving any problems originating on-site. Stetzer has consistently found improvements in

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